growth of service sector through extension of manpower training and provision of liberal bank finance in view of the fact that service sector accounts for 40 per cent of our GDP;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Services sector has been the fastest growing component of the Indian economy in recent years and is expected to continue to play a leading role in the future.

(b) to (d) Different Ministries of Government of India are already engaged in removing barriers to growth and in creating enabling environment for services sector to blossom. The Services sector is very diverse and *inter-alia* includes sub-sectors like education, health, transport, services, communications, banking and other financial services, retail trade, other trade, real estate, publioadministration, software, BPO, commercial services, etc. Each of these has its own issues and problems, and, therefore, each sector needs a different mechanism and strategy for exploring its potential for growth. Different Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are also responsible for drawing up of strategies for manpower development and for encouraging liberal bank finance.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Employment in Agro and Rural industries

†70. SHRI HARISH RAWAT Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in the agro based and rural industries and the percentage of persons working in above industries out of total employed persons;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employment opportunities in both the above category of industries have declined; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures being taken to promote the agro and rural industries and increase the job opportunities therein?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As per the results of the latest quinquennial Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment (55th round; 1999-2000), the total workforce of the country is 336.75 million. Approximately 1.8 per cent of this workforce is employed in agro and rural industries, coming under the purview of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The number of employment opportunities in the Khc-di and Village Industries (KVI) Sector, including agro and rural industries under the KVIC, has shown an increasing trend over the last few years as qiven below:—

Year	Employment in KVI sector including agro and rural industries (Number in lakh persons)
1999-00	59.23
2000-01	60.07
2001-02	62.64
2002-03	66.45
2003-04	71.18

The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the KVIC to promote agro and rural industries in the country. Under this programme, an entrepreneur can establish a village industry by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakh are entitled to margin money support of upto 25 per cent of the project cost. For projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money support is 25 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project for the general category of entrepreneurs. In the case of entrepreneurs from the weaker sections, *viz.,* the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Women, Physically Handicapped, Ex-servicemen, Minority Community, etc., the margin money is given at the rate of 30 per cent of

the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakh while for projects costing above Rs, 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money assistance is 30 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) target is to generate 25 lakh jobs under the REGP. During the first two years of the Tenth Plan i.e., 2002-2003 and 2003-04, 8.3 lakh jobs were created under the REGP.

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

71. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the last three years; and

(b) the details of amount utilized as well as unutilized out of the above?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Central Government allocates funds for subsidy, Entrepreneurial Development Training (EDT), contingencies, etc., based on the targets of generation of employment opportunities allocated to the individual States/Union Territories (UTs). The Central funds for subsidy are routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which, in turn, passes them on to the implementing banks for crediting the amounts to the loan accounts of individual beneficiaries. It has not been possible to get from the RBI the amounts of subsidies actually utilized in individual States/ UTs. However, the funds for EDT, contingencies, etc, are released by the Central Government directly to the States/UTs. Details of the PMRY funds so released to Uttar Pradesh, utilisation of the funds reported by the State Government and balance funds with the State Government during the last three years, *i.e.,* 2001 -02,2002-03 and 2003-04 under the PMRY are at enclosed Statement.